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(703) 305-3230ENDFIELD

MICHAEL THALERENDFIELD

(703) 308-2981ENDFIELD

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Claims 1-31 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Hood (5,935,143). Hood shows an ultrasonic applicator comprising a base portion comprising an aluminum alloy material and a surface coating of aluminum oxide (col. 7, lines 30-57). Making the thickness of the coating within the claimed

range in order to insure that the coating is sufficiently thick to avoid wearing away would have been obvious.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

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Boxes I - VIIIEENDFIELD

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27 AUGUST 2001ENDFIELD

27 SEPTEMBER 2002ENDFIELD

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